

Message Text

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TO USDEL SECRETARY PRIORITY

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FOR FUNSETH FROM S/PRS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SOPN OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: PRESS REPORTAGE (12/7/76)

NO. 4

WIRES:

1. UPI (ANDERSON FROM BRUSSELS)

"KISSINGER ARRIVED TUESDAY NIGHT ON WHAT WAS LIKELY HIS
LAST EUROPEAN JOURNEY AS SECRETARY OF STATE. BRITISH
OFFICIALS SAID HE WOULD TRY TO SAVE HIS FOUNDERING PLAN
FOR RHODESIAN MAJORITY RULE. ...

HE TOLD REPORTERS UPON ARRIVAL THE UNITED STATES HAS
A CONTINUOUS COMMITMENT TO NATO, AND WAS CERTAIN TO BE
EQUALLY AS IMPORTANT FOR THE ADMINISTRATION OF PRESIDENT-
ELECT JIMMY CARTER.

KISSINGER SAID THE FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY DEPENDS ON THE
COHESIVENESS OF THE ALLIANCE, WHICH IS BESET BY MANY
PROBLEMS, INCLUDING THE THREAT POSED BY THE GROWING

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MILITARY STRENGTH OF THE SOVIET UNION.

OFFICIALS SAID HE WILL CONFER FRIDAY AFTERNOON WITH BRITISH FOREIGN SECRETARY ANTHONY CROSLAND. HE WILL MEET PRIME MINISTER JAMES CALLAGHAN AT HIS NO. 10 DOWNING STREET RESIDENCE FRIDAY EVENING. CROSLAND ALSO WILL ATTEND.

KISSINGER AND CROSLAND WILL HAVE A FINAL TALK AT THE FOREIGN OFFICE SATURDAY MORNING, THE SOURCES SAID.

OFFICIALS SAID THE BRITISH GOVERNMENT IS DEEPLY WORRIED BY THE DEADLOCK IN THE SLOW MOVING GENEVA RHODESIAN TALKS. ...

ONLY 13 DAYS REMAIN BEFORE A DEC. 20 DEADLINE SET BY BRITAIN'S CHAIRMAN IVOR RICHARD TO REACH AGREEMENT ON AN INTERIM RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.

IT WAS CONSIDERED LIKELY THAT KISSINGER'S TRIP WOULD PROBABLY BE HIS LAST BEFORE THE TAKEOVER OF THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, UNDER WHICH CYRUS VANCE WILL BECOME SECRETARY OF STATE."

2. UPI (ANDERSON FROM BRUSSELS -- LATE ITEM)

"THE FAMED 'SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL,' AN INSTITUTION IN AMERICAN JOURNALISM AND DIPLOMACY DURING THE SECRETARYSHIP OF HENRY KISSINGER, QUIETLY PASSED AWAY TUESDAY AT THE AGE OF THREE.

THE MYTHICAL 'OFFICIAL' ACTUALLY WAS A KISSINGER DEVICE BORN IN LATE 1973, SUDDENLY APPEARING BEFORE THE AMERICAN REPORTERS WHO TRAVELED ABOARD THE PLANE THAT ALSO CARRIED THE SECRETARY OF STATE THROUGH THE MIDDLE EAST.

WITHOUT EXPLANATION, OR FURTHER CLUES TO HIS IDENTITY, THE 'SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL TRAVELLING ON KISSINGER'S PLANE' BECAME THE ATTRIBUTED SOURCE OF THOUSANDS OF NEWS STORIES CHARTING THE PROGRESS KISSINGER WAS MAKING UNCLASSIFIED

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IN HIS NEGOTIATIONS.

THUS DID A KISSINGER'S-EYE VIEW OF THINGS GET BEFORE THE PUBLIC OF THE WORLD WHILE THE SECRETARY HIMSELF DIPLOMATICALLY MANAGED TO AVOID BEING DIRECTLY QUOTED BY NAME.

THE 'SENIOR OFFICIAL', NOT SURPRISINGLY, PROVED TO BE

VERY LOYAL, EXERCISING DISCREET SILENCE ABOUT KISSINGER'S FAILURES.

BUT 'HIS' DEATH AS A DEVICE FOR TRANSMITTING NEWS WAS INDIRECTLY CAUSED BY THE U.S. ELECTIONS AND THE CHANGE IN THE U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

THE DISAPPEARANCE OF 'SENIOR' AS SOME OF HIS FRIENDS CALLED HIM, WAS MADE KNOWN TO REPORTERS ABOARD THE KISSINGER PLANE TUESDAY WHEN THEY WERE INFORMED THAT HENCEFORTH THEY COULD ONLY QUOTE 'STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS.'

'SENIOR AMERICAN OFFICIAL'S' WORDS WERE CAREFULLY WEIGHED AND WATCHED BY NEWSPAPER READERS AND BROADCAST LISTENERS -- AS WELL AS THE WORLD'S GOVERNMENTS WHO NATURALLY HAD A PRETTY GOOD IDEA WHO HE WAS -- FROM 1973 TO 1976. 'SENIOR' COULD SPEAK FRANKLY WITHOUT DISRUPTING DELICATE NEGOTIATIONS, WHEREAS KISSINGER HIMSELF COULD NOT.

IT HELPED KISSINGER, OF COURSE, BUT IT ALSO HELPED

THE WORLD'S NEWS WATCHERS. FOR INSTANCE, IT WAS 'SENIOR' WHO FIRST LET THE WORLD KNOW KISSINGER WAS CLOSE TO AN AGREEMENT IN THE ISRAELI-EGYPTIAN NEGOTIATIONS AND LATER THAT A SYRIAN-ISRAELI AGREEMENT WAS TO BE ACHIEVED.

'SENIOR' HAD A REPUTATION FOR NEVER LYING TO THE REPORTERS WHO CHECKED HIM CAREFULLY; THE REPORTERS SOMETIMES LATER LEARNED THAT THEY HAD NOT BEEN TOLD THE ENTIRE TRUTH, BUT THAT WAS WITHIN THE LIMITS OF FAIR PLAY.

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THE 'SENIOR' IN HIS NAME WAS A BADGE OF RANK AND AUTHORITY WHICH DISTINGUISHED HIS REFLECTIONS AND ASSESSMENTS FROM MERE 'AMERICAN OFFICIALS.'

'SENIOR' ODDLY NEVER APPEARED ON THE GROUND, ONLY IN THE AIR. IN LIEU OF FLOWERS, CONTRIBUTIONS CAN BE MADE TO THE STATE DEPARTMENT CORRESPONDENTS ASSOCIATION FOR ITS ANNUAL PICNIC."

3. AP (NO BY LINE FROM BRUSSELS)

KISSINGER, ON HIS LAST TRIP TO EUROPE AS SECRETARY OF STATE, ARRIVED TODAY FOR A MEETING OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC COUNCIL AND SAID THE U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE WILL REMAIN FIRM.

KISSINGER TOLD REPORTERS THAT "THROUGH ALL CHANGES OF ADMINISTRATION, NATO HAS BEEN THE CARDINAL COMMITMENT OF THE U.S. AND I AM CERTAIN THAT IT WILL CONTINUE TO BE SO IN THE FUTURE."

HE BROUGHT WITH HIM A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER THAT HE WILL DELIVER AT THE OPENING SESSION OF THE MINISTERS THURSDAY.

IN HIS AIRPORT STATEMENT, KISSINGER SAID, "I DON'T THINK ANY ALLIANCE IN MODERN HISTORY HAS LASTED SO LONG, GROWN SO MUCH IN VITALITY AND EXTENDED THE RANGE OF ITS CONCERNS SO EFFECTIVELY."

KISSINGER DID NOT WAIT TO ANSWER QUESTIONS, LEAVING IMMEDIATELY WITH HIS WIFE, NANCY, FOR THE RESIDENCE OF U.S. AMBASSADOR LEONARD FIRESTONE. ...

AFTER THE COUNCIL CONFERENCE ENDS FRIDAY HE WILL GO TO LONDON FOR TALKS ON THE RACIAL CRISIS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA.

4. REUTER (NO BY LINE FROM BRUSSELS)

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SECRETARY KISSINGER ARRIVED HERE TONIGHT TO ATTEND HIS LAST MEETING OF NATO FOREIGN MINISTERS BEFORE LEAVING OFFICE.

HE SAID IN A STATEMENT AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE 15-NATION ALLIANCE HAD BEEN A PILLAR OF AMERICAN FOREIGN POLICY AND HE WAS SURE IT WOULD CONTINUE TO BE SO UNDER THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION.

DR. KISSINGER SAID; "NO ALLIANCE IN MODERN HISTORY HAS LASTED SO LONG OR EXTENDED SO MUCH THE SCOPE OF ITS ACTIVITIES. "THE DEMOCRACY OF OUR NATIONS DEPENDS ON ITS COHESIVENESS AND IT IS IN THAT SPIRIT THAT WE WILL CONDUCT OUR DISCUSSIONS."

5. AP (ANDERSON FROM BRUSSELS -- LATE ITEM)

"STATE OFFICIALS ON THE PLANE CARRYING SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY A. KISSINGER, TO HIS LAST NATO MEETING SAID TUESDAY A WARSAW PACT PROPOSAL FOR A MUTUAL FREEZE ON THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TWO ALLIANCES IS UNACCEPTABLE.

THE OFFICIALS SAID THE PROPOSAL MADE BY SOVIET LEADER
LEONID BREZHNEV IN BUCHAREST TWO WEEKS AGO WOULD BE
IN CONFLICT WITH THE POLICY THAT SPAIN SHOULD EVENTUALLY
BECOME A MEMBER OF THE NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY ORGANIZATION.

THEREFORE, SAID THE OFFICIALS, THE PROPOSAL WOULD NOT
BE ACCEPTABLE.

THE OFFICIALS SAID KISSINGER WILL TELL THE NATO
COUNCIL WHEN IT MEETS ON THURSDAY THAT THE SOVIET
THREAT IS GROWING, IF ONLY BECAUSE OF SOVIET GROWTH
IN TECHNOLOGY AND INDUSTRY.

KISSINGER IS BRINGING A MESSAGE TO THE COUNCIL FROM
PRESIDENT-ELECT JIMMY CARTER, BUT OFFICIALS SAID
HE WILL NOT TRY TO REPRESENT THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S
FOREIGN POLICY. THE OFFICIALS SAID THAT KISSINGER COULD
NOT PRESUME TO SPEAK FOR THE INCOMING U.S. ADMINISTRATION.

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HOWEVER, THE STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS SAID KISSINGER
IS EXPECTED TO GIVE HIS IMPRESSION THAT THERE IS A
STRONG CONTINUITY IN U.S. FOREIGN POLICY.

AS HE ARRIVED IN BRUSSELS, KISSINGER TOLD REPORTERS
AT THE AIRPORT THAT THE ALLIANCE 'CERTAINLY FACES
PROBLEMS' BUT IS UNIQUELY QUALIFIED TO MEET THEM.

THE MOOD ABOARD THE KISSINGER PLANE ON WHAT WAS PROBABLY
HIS LAST OVERSEAS TRIP AS SECRETARY OF STATE WAS
RELAXED AND PHILOSOPHICAL. THE USUAL TENSIONS AND
PRESSURE THAT WERE PART OF THE RESPONSIBILITY FOR
CONDUCTING U.S. FOREIGN POLICY WERE MISSING."

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